

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 080759Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, SREF, PINT, EAID, SO

SUBJECT: RELIEF CENTERS TO CLOSE, RESETTLEMENT TO BEGIN

REF: MOGADISCIO 0651

1. UNDP ACTING RES REP LAPIDOTH TOLD US MAY 7 THAT GSDR PLANNED TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY RELOCATING 90,000 REFUGEES FROM INLAND RELIEF CENTERS IN NORTH TO FIVE RESETTLEMENT SITES IN SHEBELLI AND JUBA BASINS. ADVANCE CONTINGENT OF 18,000 ABLE-BODIED MEN (PRESUMABLY ALL PERSONS IN THAT CATEGORY IN THE VARIOUS CENTERS) REPORTEDLY ALREADY ENROUTE TO CLEAR MAND AND CONSTRUCT HOUSING AND OTHER FACILITIES. CAMP POPULATIONS WILL BE MOVED AS UNITS TO NEW SITES. GSDR HOPES TO COMPLETE RELOCATION DURING NEXT FIVE MONTHS AND BEFORE FALL RAINS.

2. RELIEF CENTERS ON COAST TO BE REDESIGNATED "RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES". INHABITANTS WILL BE ORGANIZED INTO FISHING COOP-ERATIVES AND GIVEN TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE UNDER ONGOING BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL AID PROGRAMS.

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3. UN ESTIMATES 75,000 PERSONS WILL RETURN TO NOMADIC LIFE.

GSDR SAYS NO ONE WILL BE FORCED TO RELOCATE BUT OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT REGIME WILL BRING WHATEVER POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IT CAN TO BEAR TO PREVENT LARGE SCALE REVERSION TO TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE.

4. GSDR MOVE REPRESENTS TURNAROUND FROM EARLIER STANCE WHICH CONTEMPLATED RESETTLEMENT BEGINNING THIS FALL AND ONLY THEN IF THERE WAS ADEQUATE RAIN. MOREOVER, LAPIDOTH, WHO TENDS TOWARD OVERDRAMATIZATION ANYWAY, INTERPRETS MOVE AS SLAP IN FACE TO UNDP WHICH GSDR HAD COMMISSIONED TO DRAW UP RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION SCHEME. HE SAID THAT PLAN HAD GONE BY THE BOARDS AND, SO FAR, GSDR HAD REVEALED NOTHING TO TAKE ITS PLACE. WITH TYPICAL CHUTZPAH, GSDR HAS REQUESTED UNDP TO ISSUE URGENT APPEAL IN ITS BEHALF FOR TRUCKS TO CARRY OUT RELOCATION. (REFTEL NOTES SORRY STATE OF GSDR'S FLEET AT PRESENT). LAPIDOTH STATED THAT GSDR WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE SIMILAR APPEALS SHORTLY TO INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL DONORS. IMPACT OF GSDR RESETTLEMENT DECISION ON OTHER AID REQUIREMENTS NOT YET CLEAR.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE SURPRISED WITH THE DISPATCH, IF NOT HASTE, WITH WHICH GSDR DECISION TAKEN. SOLE POSITIVE EFFECT WE SEE IS THAT REFUGEES WILL BE IN AREAS THAT, GIVEN RAIN, ARE POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE. WITHOUT ADEQUATE RAIN, SETTLERS WILL BE AS DEPENDENT ON GENEROSITY OF FOREIGN FOOD DONORS AS BEFORE. WITH PLANNED RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITY POPULATION RANGING FROM 10,000 TO 30,000, HEALTH AND SANITATION PROBLEMS WHICH PLAGUE RELIEF CENTERS IN EARLY DAYS (AND WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY WERE LARGELY OVERCOME) WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RETURN, REQUIRING ANOTHER EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING EFFORT TO CONTROL. INDEED, WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION EFFORT ITSELF. GIVEN EVEN A MINIMUM TURNAROUND TIME OF 10 DAYS, UPWARDS OF 450 VEHICLES WOULD BE REQUIRED. WHILE NOT EVEN THE SOMALIS, WE SUSPECT, THINK THE SCHEME WILL PROCEED PRECISELY AS PLANNED, THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT THE GSDR HAS OUTLINED AND WHAT IS LOGISTICALLY AND EVEN PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE IS STAGGERING. THIS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, LEADS US TO BELIEVE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT ROOTED IN POLITICS, A MATTER TO BE ADDRESSED SEPTTEL.
HAMRICK

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